

The Aunes worked untold hours to create an outstanding health center to provide a wide variety of services in a local setting, ensuring that many elderly and physically impaired patients will receive needed care without traveling long distances. Don's leadership, coupled with Mary's behind-the-scenes efforts, was the key to opening this long-awaited and greatly needed facility. They deserve our gratitude.

I hope my colleagues will join me today in paying tribute to Don and Mary Aune for their endeavors on behalf of the entire community. The Aune Medical Center stands as a monument to their enterprise and diligence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, 3, 13, and 14, as well as December 4, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 592 through 599. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 592, 593, 594, 597, 598 and 599; and "nay" on rollcall votes 595 and 596.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRADLEY W. BEAL, NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize my friend Brad Beal, the President and CEO of the Nevada Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my district in Las Vegas, for his recent election to the board of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). Brad has been a leader in the Nevada credit union movement for over 14 years and I am glad to see him receive this national recognition.

For the last decade, Brad has served as the President and CEO of the Nevada Federal Credit Union, which has over \$550 million in assets in 17 branches throughout Nevada. In this role, Brad has been a leader for over 250 employees at Nevada FCU, and a leader for the credit union community, both in Nevada and at the national level. During my time in Congress, he has kept me fully informed about the issues of concern to the 77,000 members of Nevada FCU and credit unions everywhere. Brad has always been sure to take the time to meet with me when he is in Washington, D.C. or when I am in the District, to keep me and my staff updated.

His election to the NAFCU board culminates a long career in the credit union industry. NAFCU is the national trade association that represents federal credit unions and ensures that their voice is heard in Washington. I congratulate my friend Brad Beal on his recent election to the NAFCU Board and look forward

to continuing to work with him and America's credit unions. I know Brad will be an outstanding voice for credit unions everywhere.

IN HONOR OF BELINDA CUEVAS, WHO IS BEING HONORED AS "AN OUTSTANDING HUMAN BEING" BY THE PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Belinda Cuevas of Perth Amboy, New Jersey for being recognized by the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development as "an outstanding community member" and "an outstanding human being."

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, she has demonstrated a continued commitment to her community through her work with the local school and church. She has served as President of the Parent Teachers Organization at the EJ Patten School, and has served as a catechist and member of the choir at La Asuncion Church for a number of years.

In her devotion to the community, Belinda strives to live up to the inspirational example of her late grandmother Balbina DeJesus Hernandez. The mother of four, Belinda knows the importance of setting a good example for her children, Ava Ivis, Gabriela, Alexander, and Emily Janet. She does her best to teach them the importance of service to the community and love for one's neighbors.

Recently, Belinda performed an extraordinary act of kindness when she donated one of her kidneys to save the life of a fellow Perth Amboy resident, Pedro "Pete" A. Roman. When she learned that he suffered from renal failure, she demonstrated remarkable kindness and selflessness by volunteering to be tested as a donor, and eventually donating her kidney. Pete received this gift of life on July 13, 2000 at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, and both patients have since recovered and returned to work. It is certain that Belinda's exceptional generosity has changed the lives of Pete and his family forever.

For her service to the community of Perth Amboy as well as her unparalleled show of compassion and selflessness, I ask my colleagues to join me in praising Belinda Cuevas as a truly extraordinary member of the community.

A TRIBUTE TO GERRY HERP

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this chamber today to honor Gerry Herp on the occasion of his retirement. At the end of the season, Gerry Herp will retire as Head Football Coach of Uby Community High School in Uby, Michigan. He is truly one of the greatest contributors to Michigan athletics in the past fifty years and he will be sorely missed.

In a career beginning in 1963 and spanning five decades, this legend of the gridiron con-

sistently pushed his team to excellence both on and off the football field. On the field, Coach Herp led the Uby Bearcats to an impressive lifetime record of 140 wins, 106 losses and two ties. Under his tutelage, the Bearcats have won nine league championships and garnered two play-off appearances since 1983, a record of success which earned him regional Coach of the Year honors on two occasions.

But beyond the yardage gained, the points scored and the championships won, the true and lasting impact of Coach Herp's commitment to his team and the young people of his community can be measured by the impact he had on the hearts and minds of those he coached. During his career, Gerry not only coached football, baseball and women's softball, he also volunteered much of his time to helping disadvantaged youth involved in the Babe Ruth program, endeavors which endeared him to his community and earned him Uby's 1999 Friend of Youth honors.

Of course, his many successes could not have been accomplished without the loving support of his wife, Elrae, and their four daughters, Amy, Betsy, Rachel and Jeralyn and stepdaughter, Lori Flippin.

When Gerry Herp officially steps down as Head Football Coach of Uby Community High School at the end of this season, he deserves a place of honor among those who strive to ensure the physical health and mental well-being of our youth through athletic programs. On this day, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gerry on his many victories and wish him well as he cheers on the Bearcats from the stands.

H.R. 5621 MEDICAID DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE (DSH)

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2000 I introduced H.R. 5621, the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Fairness Act of 2000. This legislation is identical to a bill which was introduced last month by the senior Senator from Illinois, with the full support of the Administration.

In 1997, Congress enacted the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 (P.L. 105-33). The stated intent of the legislation was to slow the rate of growth in the Medicare program. Unfortunately, the reductions enacted through the BBA went much deeper than expected. As a result, the net and cumulative effects of the Act have severely reduced Medicare reimbursements to hospitals and health service providers.

I opposed the Balanced Budget Act when it was debated by the House of Representatives in 1997. I believed that it was a bad policy then, and believe that it is a bad policy now.

The BBA reductions have been particularly severe on hospitals in Illinois. In my district, which encompasses the south and west sides of the city of Chicago, there are eleven major hospital facilities which have been devastated by BBA reductions. Multiply the losses across the state, and the impact on services is staggering. In the First Session of the current Congress, I introduced the Health Care Preservation and Accessibility Act of 1999, H.R. 3145,